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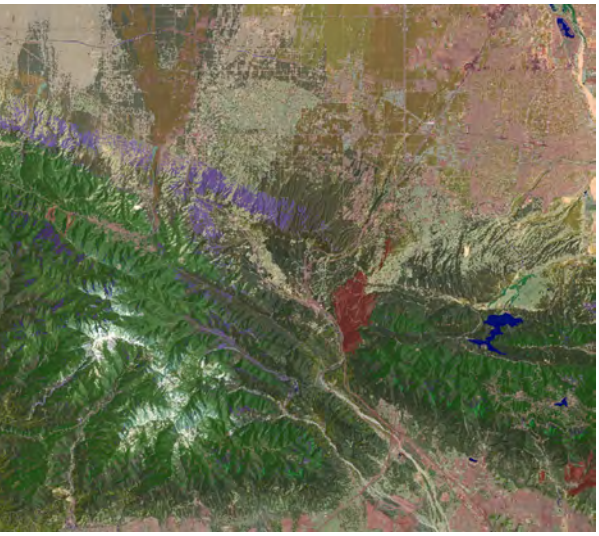
GAP ANALYSIS PROGRAM

LAND COVER

National Inventory of Vegetation and Land Use



The sources for the land cover data all use similar base satellite imagery, classification systems, and mapping methodologies, allowing for the creation of a seamless national land cover map at 30-meter resolution. The map legend is based on NatureServe's Ecological Systems Classification (*http://www.natureserve.org/publications/usEcologicalsystems.jsp*), which describes vegetation communities at a finer level of thematic detail than previously mapped for the United States.

The Gap Analysis Program (GAP) national land cover includes data on the vegetation and land-use patterns of the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. This national dataset combines land cover data generated by regional GAP projects with Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools (LANDFIRE) data (*http://www.landfire.gov/*). LANDFIRE is an interagency vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics mapping program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

View and download the land cover dataset at the following Web site:
http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/gaplandcover

Key Features

- High spatial resolution of the data allows for mapping of rare and small patches of vegetation, which frequently are of importance to wildlife.
- Seamless nature of map allows for the calculation of summary statistics for any user-defined boundary.
  - Data are available for viewing and download from GAP's Land Cover Viewer, which includes vegetation range maps and descriptions for each of the six-tiered levels of vegetation.
  - The ecological systems have been crosswalked to the National Vegetation Classification Standard. This tiered classification system allows users to select from six levels of thematic detail.

The National GAP land cover dataset is produced by the U.S. Geological Survey GAP. The GAP produces data and tools that help meet critical national challenges such as biodiversity conservation, renewable energy development, climate change adaptation, and infrastructure investment. Learn more about GAP and other GAP data (including protected areas and species) at *http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov*.

Uses of National GAP Land Cover Data

- Identify the types of vegetation in a particular state or assessment unit;
- Explore relationships between vegetation types, elevation, soils, slope, and aspect;
- Use as input into wildlife habitat, hydrologic, land use, conservation planning, and climate change models;
- Use as baseline from which to measure the effects of climate change on vegetation; and
- Overlay with protected areas data (PAD-US; *http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus/*) to identify ownership and protection status of vegetation types.

View land cover data online at the following Web site:
http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/gaplandcover/viewer

For more information on National Gap Analysis Program land cover, contact the National Program Manager at 208-426-5219.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

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